

Middletown Open Space & Fields Committee

Minutes of Meeting

April 17, 2013

A meeting of the Open Space & Fields Committee took place on Wednesday, April 17, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Middletown Police Station, Middletown, Rhode Island. The meeting was called to order by Mason Hawes, Chairman

Member Present: Cheryl Boergesson, Nicholas Coogan, Austin Prendergast, Mike Richards, Ed Sisk, and Barbara Barrow

Members Absent: Ralph Thomas and John Pinto

Ex-officio Members:

Present: Dick Adams, Town Council Liaison, Robert Johnson, Conservation Commission Matt Sullivan, Planning Committee Liaison

Town Officials: None

Others Present: Barbara Gifford, Park Steward, Linden Park; Carmella Geer, Middletown School Department Outreach Coordinator.

Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to accept the March minutes with the correction of the spelling of Austin Prendergast and a suggestion that the ad hoc committee's name be changed to Exploration of Beach Conservation.

Old Business:

- **Exploration of Beach Conservation.** Barbara Barrow met with Shawn Brown, Dick Adams and Bruce Long. It was determined that OS&F had the right to form an ad hoc committee and when the committee determined that it had significant finding to report that they should be brought forward to the town council.
- **Earth Day** It was shared that Tim Shaw is no longer employed by the town. His responsibilities are being shifted to other departments. Mason Hawes met with town officials as follow up to previous coordination by Carmella Geer. A discussion occurred with Carmella Geer. It was decided to go with the event in spite of weather. In case of a wash out it was decided to share that we would be communicating a service day in May that is coordinated by the school department. Carmella Geer shared that more youth and parents would be participating if we did not schedule the Earth Day program during the 10 days of public school vacation in the future.
- **Memorial Policy Update.** Shawn Brown will be reviewing the draft.
- **Revision of Open Space and Recreation Acquisition Policy Scoring Sheet.** Table to a future date.
- **Purgatory Chasm Walkway/Scenic Vista Update.** Mason Hawes informed the committee that a property transfer from DOT to DEM should soon occur. Then there needs to be a federal review and sign off. Realistically, it will be at least a year before the project is completed.

- **Properties Updates.**

- o **Demery Park.** Received Ed Sisk's survey

- o **Park Surveys.** Mason Hawes had a discussion with town administration. The committee will review surveys and forward to Tom O'Laughlin, director of the Public Works Department. Any red flags should be immediately reported to Shawn and Tom. All are encouraged to use the citizen request on the website.

- o **Property Updated Excell Report.** This will be edited following a discussion with the town administration.

- o **Planning for Tibbets/Boulevard Sustainable Use.** No update available.

- o **The Valley—Moving Forward.** Decision is still pending on the grant application for trail construction that was submitted to the state. The decision on a similar grant for Paradise Valley Park is also still pending.

- o **Other Parks.** No updates available

- **Beach Facility Advisory Committee Report.** Update for next meeting.

New Business:

- **Ghost Bikes.** Mason Hawes recommended that the committee leave any action to the town council. A survey soliciting opinions could be conducted on the website.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM. The next meeting

will be on Wednesday, May15, 2013 at 5:30 PM in the Community Room at the Middletown Police Station, 123 Valley Road, Middletown.

Mason Hawes

Chairman